



September 3, 2010

FCEM&HS SECURES FEDERAL GRANT TO UPDATE COUNTYWIDE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) has secured a \$58,664 competitive federal grant to update a countywide hazard mitigation plan. The project is expected to be completed next year, months before the February 2012 federal deadline.

Hazard mitigation – such as flood insurance and protective building standards – is the sustained effort to reduce the risk of loss of life and property by lessening the impact of hazards such as floods. For example, rigorous building standards in 20,000 U.S. communities save the nation an estimated \$1.1 billion a year in preventable flood damages.

“This important planning will guide future actions by local governments across Franklin County to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from dangerous hazards and their effects,” FCEM&HS Director Michael R. Pannell said. “This project will help make our community safer.”

FCEM&HS competed against numerous other Ohio communities to win the grant, funded under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and administered by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

The federally required plan update will be the first since the original countywide hazard mitigation plan was put in place in Franklin County five years ago as a requirement under federal rule 44 CFR 201.6.

The agency expects to work with all of Franklin County's 42 local government jurisdictions on the project. Updating the plan is a key precondition for future FEMA funding assistance for participating local jurisdictions' hazard mitigation projects, and such projects will be required to conform to the new plan.

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a local government agency, coordinates county-wide emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response, and recovery to minimize adverse impacts on area residents and property.

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SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
